



Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **January 26, 2000**
- CONTACT: Dave Druker
or
- CONTACT: Randy Nehrt

Senate Committee Approves Legislation to Centralize Court Supervision Records

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate Transportation Committee unanimously approved legislation today that requires all court supervisions to be reported to the Secretary of State.

The legislation is an outgrowth of Secretary of State Jesse White's Highway Safety 2000 Advisory Panel, which was formed in early 1999 to investigate concerns raised by a tragic, fatal crash between an Amtrak passenger train and a semi-trailer in Bourbonnais.

"Last year a very unfortunate accident between an Amtrak passenger train and a tractor-trailer claimed the lives of 11 people," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "What we learned from that tragic accident, is that the driver of the truck had a long history of bad driving and an established record of abusing court supervision to continue driving legally.

"It's unfortunate that it sometimes takes a tragedy to uncover the shortcomings of a system," White added. "Thanks to the dedication and effort of the Highway Safety 2000 Advisory Panel, we are attempting to make changes today that could prevent future tragedies."

House Bill 2883 gives the Secretary of State authority to establish a centralized database of dispositions of court supervision for drivers in all 102 counties in Illinois and requires the circuit clerk of each county to provide the Secretary of State with information on every court supervision. The legislation also provides that all the

information reported to the Secretary of State is available only to the affected driver and for use by the courts, police officers, prosecuting authorities and the Secretary of State.

"Under the current system, it is impossible for counties to be aware of a person's history of obtaining court supervision," said Senator Walter Dudyycz (R-Chicago), lead sponsor of the legislation and member of the Highway Safety 2000 Advisory Panel. "This legislation would ensure judges and prosecutors have a complete picture of a person's driving habits when prosecuting traffic offenders."

White said the start-up cost for the program would be paid for by a federal grant. The \$356,845 grant is provided through the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Safety Administration and is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.